



OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Folsom, CA

May 17, 2013

STAFF REPORT: Changes to Grants Regulations
STAFF: Kelly Long, Grant Administrator
SUBJECT: Suggested Modifications to the Grants Program Regulations

Summary

Public Resource Code (PRC), Section 5090.24(b), directs the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission (Commission) to “. . . include a public meeting, before the beginning of each grant program cycle, to collect public input concerning the program, recommendations for program improvements, and specific project needs for the system.”

Timely collection of input will allow staff to consider suggestions and incorporate changes prior to the next Grants Program funding cycle in 2014.

Discussion

The Division continually strives to ensure the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program (Grants Program) is a clear and efficient program that provides real benefits to the people and resources of California. Following each grant cycle, Division staff discuss areas in the regulations that may require revision or clarification. Staff also solicits and receives input from grant applicants and interested parties throughout the year. When warranted, this input may lead to new or revised Grants Program regulations.

Any changes to the Grants Program regulations and associated documents are subject to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The APA ensures adequate opportunity for public comment on proposed changes and review by the Office of Administrative Law. At a minimum, the public has 45 days to comment on any proposed regulatory changes; more time is available for any subsequent revisions. Thus, the APA requires considerable amount of time before proposed regulations are in effect. Typically, the regulatory process takes at least six months from start to finish.

Potential Regulation Changes:

Staff has identified several areas of the Grants Program that warrant consideration for revision or clarification. Suggested modifications include:

- Within Operation and Maintenance, removing the 10% funding cap for acquisition, development and planning projects. Instead, the three subcategories would be allowed up to 30% combined.
- Improvements/clarification of all project evaluation criteria.
- Improvements/clarification to the Habitat Management Program.
- Language to ensure developments funded through the Grants Program remain available for use.

Commission Action

As required by PRC 5090.24, the Commission may seek public input on the program.